

In the Claims

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1. (Currently amended) A communications network for connecting a number of nodes with a headend, the network comprising:

two optical networks each comprising a plurality of ~~splitter or couplers~~ periodic interleaving filters serially connected by optical waveguides such that an output port of one ~~splitter/coupler~~ periodic interleaving filters is coupled to an input port of another ~~splitter/coupler~~ periodic interleaving filters, and wherein an input or output for each said node is formed by a non-serially connected input or output port of a said ~~splitter or coupler~~ periodic interleaving filters from each said optical network.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) A communications network as claimed in claim 1 wherein said optical networks are fibre networks.

4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently amended) A communications network as claimed in claim 4 wherein the periodic interleaving filters are fused fibre couplers.

6. (Currently amended) A communications network as claimed in claim 1 wherein two of said serially connected ~~splitter or couplers~~ periodic interleaving filters are co-located

7. (Currently amended) A communications network for connecting a number of nodes with a headend, the network comprising:

two fibre networks each comprising a plurality of ~~splitter or couplers~~ periodic interleaving filters serially connected by optical fibre such that an output port of one ~~splitter/coupler~~ periodic interleaving filters is coupled to an input port of another ~~splitter/coupler~~ periodic interleaving filters, and

wherein an input or output for a said node is formed by a non-serially connected input or output port of a said ~~splitter or coupler~~ periodic interleaving filters;

wherein the two optical networks together form a ring architecture.

8. (Currently amended) A method of operating a communications network for connecting a number of nodes with a headend, the network comprising:

two optical networks each comprising a plurality of ~~splitters or couplers~~ periodic interleaving filters serially connected by optical waveguides such that an output port of one ~~splitter/coupler~~ periodic interleaving filters is coupled to an input port of another ~~splitter/coupler~~ periodic interleaving filters, and wherein an input or output for each said node is formed by a non-serially connected input or output port of a said splitter or coupler from each said optical network; said method comprising:

routing traffic between said headend and said nodes.

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